

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 16 Tuesday, February 27, I was detained due to being with the official delegation honoring the 10th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 16, H. Con. Res. 39, Tuesday February 27, 2001, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PRASAD CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, February has been Children's Health Month. Today, on the last day of the month, it is an appropriate time to reflect on how important the health of our young people is to the future of our Nation. A strong, vibrant citizenry is the very keystone to our future. Today, in the wealthiest economy in the history of the world, there is no excuse to put the health of our boys and girls on the back burner.

I have been made familiar with a program which performs such exemplarily health service that it is an appropriate model for health programs throughout the United States.

The PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program (CDHP) voluntarily serves all the young people in Sullivan County, New York. It provides health education, fluoride with parental consent, and restorative care through a mobile clinic that travels to every school district in Sullivan County.

The outstanding volunteers of PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program go into the schools to educate the children, provide free

toothbrushes, and help fight the scourge of tooth decay and gum disease.

The program is targeted to children who qualify for the free lunch program, have Medicaid or Child Health Plus for their insurance, or who have no dental insurance. The health education and fluoride prevention aspects of the program are available to all children, regardless of parental income.

PRASAD CDHP has been in existence for five years and is supported wholly with private donations.

Mr. Speaker, tooth and gum disease is the number one chronic health problem of children in our nation. It is five times more common than asthma, and seven times more common than hay fever. It is estimated that 18 million school hours are lost each year by children due to dental problems.

I am greatly impressed by the outstanding service performed by the PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program. Dyan Campbell who is the national Program Director, is seeking the wherewithal to expand the program nationwide. I believe that Ms. Campbell and her program are deserving of our support and our kudos.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all of our colleagues to join with me in saluting this truly outstanding program—a role model for our nation's children's dental health.